

Message Text

PAGE 01 STATE 093531 TOSEC 100036

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ORIGIN SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 CCO-00 /026 R

66011
DRAFTED BY NEA:EGABINGTON:HLK
APPROVED BY NEA:EGABINGTON
S/S:JLHOGANSON

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O 172212Z APR 76 ZFF4
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO USDEL SECRETARY IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 093531 TOSEC 100036

EXDIS

FOUR(4) OF FIVE(5) RPTS RE FORTHCOMING NEA ACTION MEMORANDUM

FOLLOWING REPEAT STATE 093531 ACTION JIDDA INFO TEHRAN AMMAN
USCINCEUR 17 APR

QUOTE

S E C R E T STATE 093531

EXDIS, MILITARY ADDEE HANDLE AS SPECAT EXCLUSIVE

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR MASS JO US SA
SUBJECT: HAWKS FOR JORDAN

FOR AMBASSADOR FROM ATHERTON

REF: JIDDA 2763 (NOTAL)

1. WE HAVE SENT YOU COPY OF OUR MESSAGE TO AMBASSADOR
HELMS FOR USE IN TALKING TO THE SHAH ON CURRENT STATUS OF
HAWK/VULCAN FUNDING PROBLEM (STATE 91634), WHICH COMMENTS
ON KING HUSSEIN'S POSITION. WE HAVE ALSO REPEATED TO YOU
SECRET

PAGE 02 STATE 093531 TOSEC 100036

AMMAN 2018, WHICH SETS FORTH AMBASSADOR PICKERING'S VIEW
OF HUSSEIN'S ATTITUDE. WE CANNOT BE CERTAIN OF JUST HOW
KING HUSSEIN VIEWS POSSIBILITIES, AT THIS MOMENT, THAT HAWK
DEAL COULD BE SAVED. WE ARE CONFIDENT, HOWEVER, THAT HE

WOULD BE RECEPTIVE TO HAVING THE DEAL GO THROUGH IF SUITABLE FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS CAN BE AGREED UPON THAT WOULD ASSURE HIM OF RECEIVING AIR DEFENSE PACKAGE THAT MIGHT BE SCALED DOWN FROM ORIGINAL CONCEPT BUT WOULD NEVERTHELESS INCLUDE 14 HAWK BATTERIES AND 100 VULCAN GUNS WHICH HE CONSIDERS MINIMUM ACCEPTABLE. THE KEY FACTOR THUS REMAINS SAUDI WILLINGNESS TO INCREASE THEIR CONTRIBUTION SUFFICIENTLY TO FINANCE SUCH A MINIMUM SYSTEM, WHICH WE ESTIMATE WOULD COST SOME \$520 MILLION. YOU SHOULD THEREFORE FOCUS ON THIS OPTION IN YOUR FURTHER DISCUSSIONS WITH SAG.

2. I CONSIDER IT MOST IMPORTANT THAT THE SAG NOT BE MISLED BY STATEMENTS THEY HAVE READ IN THE PRESS TO BELIEVE THE THE HAWK DEAL IS DEAD. FOR SAG TO CONSIDER IT DEAD WOULD BE TO GUARANTEE THE DEAL WOULD FALL THROUGH. IN THAT EVENT THE PROSPECT IS THAT HUSSEIN WOULD INDEED TURN TO THE SOVIETS FOR AN ALTERNATE SYSTEM WITH ALL THAT THAT WOULD IMPLY FOR UPSETTING CURRENT RELATIONSHIPS IN THE REGION, GIVING SOVIETS A FREE BOOST AND ADMINISTERING SETBACK TO FORCES OF MODERATION.

3. IN SUM, TIME IS INCREASINGLY CRITICAL AND WE ARE CONTINUING TO COUNT ON YOU TO MAKE THE BEST CASE WITH THE SAUDIS IN AN EFFORT WHICH I BELIEVE THEY AS WELL AS WE CONSIDER TO BE EXTREMELY IMPORTANT TO OUR NATIONAL INTERESTS. ROBINSON
UNQTE.

SECRET

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